

in a Southern journal a reference to an appropriation of three millions of dollars to meet the expenses of the Ku-Klux trials. The government was resolved that its army of prosecutors should not fail for want of ammunition to carry on the war.

But we are more interested in the acts of the United States agents in Canada. Of the three detectives sent lately to London, Hester, *alias* Hunter, seems to have been best provided with the means of securing all the help he might need to accomplish his objects. He employed the clerk of the crown attorney for the county as his chief confidant and agent, and he established himself in the London post-office, and was for three weeks present at the opening and making-up of the mails. All that he may have done there cannot be known to outsiders. But responsible witnesses are ready to prove that two facts, which no ingenuity could surmise, but which were stated in two different letters, written by two different and unconnected persons, and mailed in the London post-office, became known here to Hester and others about the post-office.—We believe that if this matter were fully investigated, the necessary conclusion would be that these letters, perhaps many others, were opened in the London post-office before being sent to their destination.

The British government and nation have, on more than one occasion, expressed their conviction that the post-office is designed to facilitate the correspondence of those who use it, not to serve as the channel for espionage upon them. The nation and government feel that no official can be trusted with such a power, least of all the agents of a foreign government. Doubtless the Canadian government hold the same doctrine; and the Postmaster-General has now an excellent opportunity of proving this by a searching investigation into what looks like a very corrupt transaction.

The opening and reading of these two letters, and the misconstruing of one of them, led Hester and Cornwall into a curious blunder. They inferred that Major J. W. Avery, formerly an active and enterprising officer in the Confederate army, and now charged with being the organizer and head of all the Ku-Klux bands in York county, S.C.—they inferred that he was in Canada, in London, and that Dr. Bratton was Avery.—On the trial of Cornwall for kidnaping, it came out that the warrant they professed to use was against Avery; and on coming back from Detroit Cornwall told Bates, the cabman, that they had kidnaped the wrong man. But he added—"But this one is of much use to us." It seems that the United States pays well for these little secret services. That government wanted Dr. Bratton much, but it wanted Major Avery more.

Dr. Bratton, after being kidnaped, was carried to Yorkville, S.C., there conducted to the headquarters of the military commandant, and sent thence to prison. After some days' delay, the U.S. authorities consented to bail him for \$12,000. By permission of the friends who bailed him, he has returned for a time to Canada. But, in the eye of the law, he is much a prisoner in their custody as he would be in York county guarded by Col. Merrill's soldiers.

After the successful kidnapper, seems to be still in favor with his government, for he has been lately making himself conspicuous, as deputy U.S. Marshal, in matters connected with the North Carolina elections.

Copies of the printed documents quoted, and other papers used in making up this statement, are in the hands of Messrs. Becher, Barker and Street, Barristers, London, Ont.

TRUTH.